

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compressor assembly comprising:
an inlet bearing supplied with lubricant through an inlet orifice;
an outlet bearing supplied with lubricant through an outlet orifice;
a plurality of flow passages for supplying lubricant to said inlet and outlet orifices; and
a choke orifice disposed in series with one of said inlet and outlet orifices for changing a lubricant flow rate relative to the other of said inlet and outlet orifices.
2. The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said inlet orifice and said outlet orifice are of a common size.
3. The assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein said flow passages comprise a primary portion feeding lubricant to an inlet portion and an outlet portion.
4. The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said choke orifice is disposed in series with said inlet orifice.
5. The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein a flow rate of lubricant to said inlet orifice is lower than a flow rate of lubricant to said outlet orifice.

6. The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said compressor assembly comprises a screw compressor.

7. The assembly as recited in claim 1, comprising a lube block defining a portion of said flow passage, wherein said choke orifice is disposed within said lube block.

8. The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein a portion of said flow passage comprises tubing mounted to said compressor.

9. A screw compressor assembly comprising:
- a motor driving a screw;
 - an outlet bearing supporting an outlet side of said screw;
 - an inlet bearing supporting an inlet side of said screw;
 - a flow passage comprising an inlet orifice for supplying lubricant to said inlet bearing,
- and an outlet orifice for supplying lubricant to said outlet bearing; and
- a choke orifice in series with one of said inlet and outlet orifices for controlling the flow of lubricant to at least one of said inlet and outlet orifices.
10. The assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein said inlet orifice and said outlet orifice are of a common size.
11. The assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein said flow passage comprises a primary portion feeding lubricant to an inlet portion and an outlet portion.
12. The assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein said choke orifice is disposed within said inlet portion.
13. The assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein a flow rate of lubricant within said inlet portion is lower than a flow rate of lubricant within said primary portion.

14. The assembly as recited in claim 9, comprising a lube block defining a portion of said flow passage, wherein said choke orifice is disposed within said lube block.

15. The assembly as recited in claim 9, comprising three inlet and outlet bearing assemblies, and three inlet and outlet orifices, wherein said choke orifice is in series with said three inlet orifices.

16. The assembly as recited in claim 15, wherein a lubricant flow rate to said inlet bearing assemblies is less than a lubricant flow rate to said outlet bearing assemblies.

17. The assembly as recited in claim 16, wherein said lubricant flow rate to said inlet bearing assemblies is no more than $1/5^{\text{th}}$ said lubricant flow rate to said outlet bearing assemblies.